

Waterlines

FEBRUARY 2007

The Top California Water Stories of the Month Compiled by Orange County Water District

AP 2-7-07 - Spending billions of dollars to shore up California's levee system will do little to safeguard the state's water supply according to a study by the Public Policy Institute of California. The study recommends officials rethink how they manage the Delta and changes could include building a canal to divert fresh water around the delta or restricting water exports from the Delta.

Sacramento Bee 2-2-07 - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a new list of levees across the country that it said could fail from poor maintenance. The Corps' roster shows California with 37 deficient stretches of levees - more than any other state. Most of the problems were found in rural parts of the Central Valley and around the Delta.

Stockton Record 2-8-07 - The steely blue Delta smelt is in imminent danger of extinction and needs added protection under the California Endangered Species Act, conservationists argued. They want the smelt's status changed to endangered. This, they hope, would force state officials to find ways to protect the fish from harmful water operations, including the export of billions of gallons of water south to farms and cities.

LA Times 2-16-07 - The federal government would give a huge block of water as well as partial control of a large reservoir to powerful Central Valley agricultural interests under a possible agreement aimed at resolving a long-standing farm-drainage problem. The complicated proposal amounts to a restructuring of the federal Central Valley Project. In return, the federal government would no longer be under obligation to fix a San Joaquin Valley drainage problem that could cost the taxpayers several billion dollars.

LA Times 2-14-07 - Board members for Southern California's Metropolitan Water District voted to increase their water rates by 5.8

percent. They blamed the \$30 per acre-foot increase, which one official predicted would translate into about \$1.50 a month on water bills to two factors: increasing cost of electricity and increasing costs to treat water to make it drinkable.

LA Times 2-22-07 - Global warming will worsen drought and reduce flows on the Colorado River, a key water source for Southern California and six other Western States, according to a study prepared by the National Research Council committee.

California Chronicle 1-31-07 - Congress Member Grace Napolitano (D-Norwalk) was named the Chair of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power.

OC Register 2-22-07 - San Clemente's Jim Gates is the new president of the OC Water Association.

Irvine World News 2-22-07 - Irvine Ranch Water District project filters salts and nitrates from groundwater so that more clean drinking water will be available for Orange County residents.

Waterlines is a monthly e-mail news summary prepared by the Orange County Water District (OCWD) to keep you abreast of this changing water environment. Attached is a summary of statewide news reports on key water issues. As the manager of the groundwater basin that supplies 60 percent of Orange County's water supply, OCWD provides this handy, condensed news report to save you time while still keeping you abreast of water news that affects Orange County. We hope this will help you in the performance of your duties by keeping you up-to-date on key water stories affecting your organization and your constituents. If you have any questions, or know anyone who would like to receive this update, please contact Rose Wilke at (714) 378-3206 or rwilke@ocwd.com